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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania/USSR

DATE DISTR. 2 April 1951

SUBJECT Arrival of Fighter Aircraft in Albania from the USSR; Bombing Incident in Tirana

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REPORT NO.

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1. About 20 disassembled fighter planes arrived in Durres from the USSR toward the end of February 1951; these were shipped in cases marked "textile machinery" to Tirana, where they were delivered to the airport. (Informant, who formerly worked at the airport, learned this from his supervisor.)
2. The bombing incident in Tirana occurred on 19 February 1951 during a gathering of Hoxha and his Soviet advisers; the bomb consisted of a tin of "compressed gasoline" (sic). Of 1,000 persons arrested, including members of the police and army, 50 were shot immediately, and their families interned. There is said to have been some difference of opinion between Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu regarding the type of punishment to be inflicted; Hoxha reportedly opposed the death penalty.

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